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Communist China: Militant Red Guard factions are intensifying poster attacks on top officials and apparently are fighting among themselves.

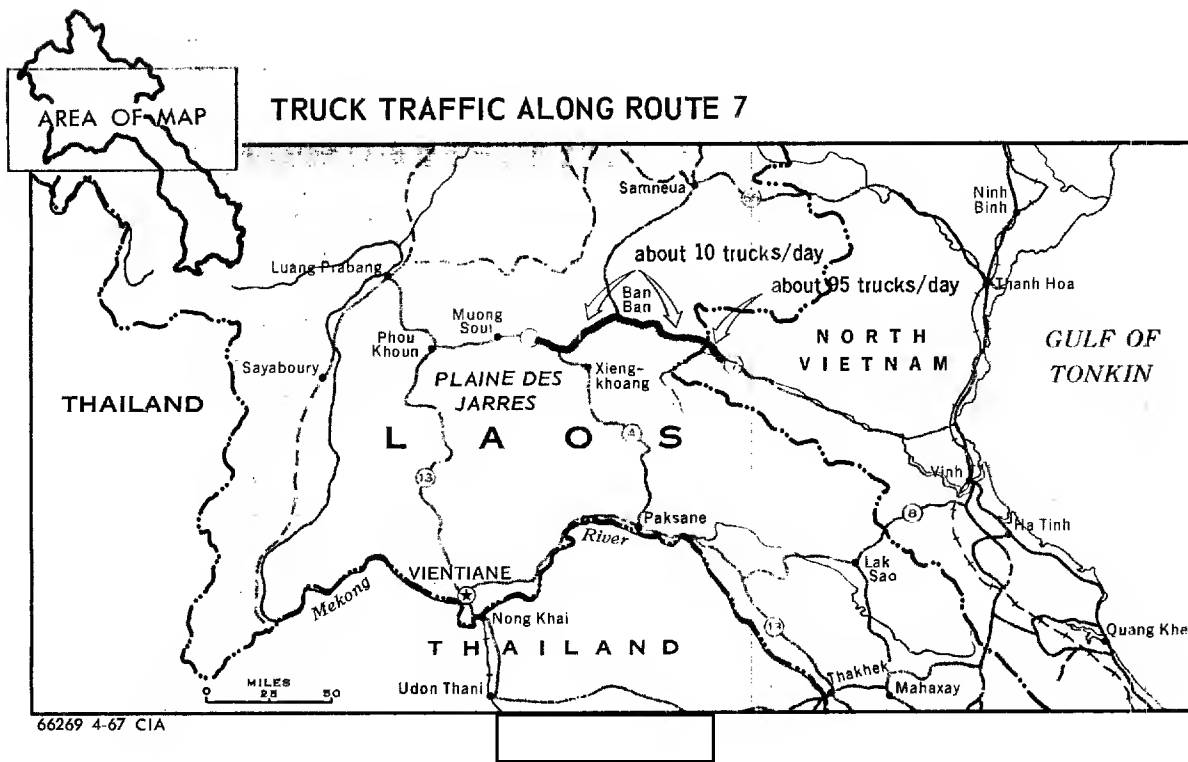
A prominent Red Guard group possibly responsive to Defense Minister Lin Piao put up posters this week-end attacking Foreign Minister Chen Yi and two military leaders, Hsu Hsiang-chien and Yeh Chien-ying. The posters accused all three of working together as agents for the disgraced Liu Shao-chi and Teng Hsiao-ping. Chen Yi was labeled a "counterrevolutionary revisionist"--thus far the strongest invective directed against him in posters. Hsu Hsiang-chien, a vice-chairman of the party's Military Affairs Committee and head of the army's Cultural Revolution purge group, is accused of opposing Lin Piao at a recent session of the Military Affairs Committee and of declaring that Lin was not qualified to be Mao's successor. Late reports of posters in Peking indicate that Hsu may have already been removed from his post as head of the army's Cultural Revolution purge group.

Red Guard posters and newspapers reveal that several well-established Red Guard groups--all believed to be responsive to militant elements in the leadership--have engaged in violent rivalry in Peking since 11 April, ostensibly over who is to represent the Red Guard movement. The posters report that on 11 and 12 April a large force of Red Guards invaded Peking University to demonstrate against Nieh Yuan-tzu, a Peking University leader close to Mao. She was named chairman of the all-Peking Congress of Red Guards, which was established in late February. The demonstrators put up posters charging that she is not a qualified leader.

The demonstrations led to clashes which apparently were serious enough to prompt Minister of Public Security Hsieh Fu-chih on 12 April to order a deputy commander of the Peking garrison to remove the demonstrators from the university campus. Slogans attacking and defending the deputy commander were soon put up, and on 13 April the opposing groups circulated statements defending their actions. [REDACTED]

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Laos: Truck traffic in North Vietnam moving toward the Plaine des Jarres has continued to be heavy since 27 March, but the trucks do not appear to be crossing into Laos in substantial numbers.

Reports from trained ground observers show that between 27 March and 10 April about 1,400 trucks, or a daily average of 95, moved west on Route 7 past a point just inside North Vietnam. An average of 30 per day moved west on this route between 1 January and 26 March of this year.

Ground observers inside Laos have reported, with one exception, that truck traffic along Route 7 has continued light, averaging about ten trucks moving westward toward the Plaine des Jarres daily between 1 and 15 April. Observers at a point about 25 miles inside Laos reported that during a four-hour period on the night of 8-9 April, 70 trucks moved westward.

The reason for this movement of traffic remains unclear. The Communists might be stockpiling supplies just short of the border for use during the Laotian rainy season, which begins in about five weeks. On the other hand, they may be replacing supplies lost in air attacks or building up for an operation before the rainy season.

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Ghana: Ghana is quiet and back under the control of the National Liberation Council (NLC) in the wake of yesterday's abortive coup.

Loyal forces organized and directed by Police Commissioner Harlley, NLC vice chairman, and Major General Ocran, armed forces chief of staff, suppressed the mutiny with little apparent bloodshed. The coup attempt was poorly planned and carried out, and the leaders appear to have had the support of only a limited number of troops.

The motivation for the coup attempt has not been revealed. There have been some morale problems and an undercurrent of tribalism among junior officers and men since the overthrow of Nkrumah in February 1966. Some younger officers reportedly have been dissatisfied with the generally poor conditions in the army and have accused the NLC of neglecting the military. Alleged NLC favoritism toward officers from the Ga and Ewe tribes has caused resentment among officers from other tribes.

The abortive coup will have a profound psychological impact on the NLC, especially since its most important military member, General Kotoka, was killed. At least some coup leaders probably will be summarily executed. Nonetheless, the council members are likely to be much more mindful from now on of any discontent among the armed forces and more inclined to appease them with increased expenditures. [REDACTED]

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